



**TENTH
CONGRESSIONAL
DISTRICT**



Congressman Kirk with Abbott Middle School

REPRESENTATIVE MARK KIRK'S

Letters Home

Winter 2001



DEAR FRIENDS,

The first duty of the federal government is to "provide for the common defense." Since September 11, Congress has united to restore our national security. We take pride in the men and women of our armed forces who put their lives on the line to protect our families here at home. Success in Central Asia shows that we will master the terrorism threat.

As Congress completes its work, we are dedicated to three key priorities: strengthening our military to defeat terrorism, bolstering homeland security to prevent another attack, and restoring growth to an economy in recession.

Our country has a well of strength that allows us to forge ahead to solve other problems. We are on the verge of enacting real education reform to ensure that no child is left behind. We are also on track to double medical research funding at the National Institutes of Health.

My staff and I have weathered the disruptions from the terrorist attacks and anthrax scares, and stand ready to help with any issues or problems concerning the federal government. It is a great honor to serve you in the Congress.

WAR BY THE NUMBERS

3,915

People missing or dead
following the Sept. 11 attack

29,000

Military personnel deployed

12,000

Missions flown

\$246,761,996

U.S. humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan

1,970,000

Airdropped daily food rations

195

Nations offering intelligence, military,
financial or logistical support

7,000

Agents investigating terrorist activity
around the world

\$58,500,000

Terrorist assets frozen in U.S. and abroad

*Data as of December 6, 2001

Key Allies Support U.S. in War on Terror

Secretary of State Colin Powell's effective diplomacy built allied support for the United States in the war on terror. To date, over 25 countries permitted U.S. forces to move through their territory and 80 countries issued financial blocking orders to dry up terrorists' access to money. To help build allied support, Congress approved assistance to key allies to bolster their battle against terrorism. As we track down the Al Qaeda terrorist organization across 59 countries, our allies will need our political and financial support to defeat terrorism.

Recently, I met with leaders of our best ally in the Middle East, Israel, to discuss defense cooperation. At my request, Israeli aviation security experts recently briefed Congress on their successful efforts to defeat terrorists. While in Israel, I met with senior leaders to discuss obtaining support for other defense programs and providing assistance to bolster Israel as she restarts the peace process. We agreed to work on key projects to ensure the security of democratic allies in the region.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Kirk Aviation Security Measures Enacted

After a vigorous debate in the House and Senate, Congress and the President joined to enact a historic law to increase airport security. Key points of the final law include:

- Uniformed, badged federal screeners will replace current airport security personnel.
- All luggage will be screened for weapons and explosives, effective December 2002.
- The federal air marshal program will be dramatically expanded.
- Cockpit doors will be added to prevent flight deck access.
- A new security “czar” will be appointed with broad powers to upgrade security.

In his work on the Aviation Subcommittee, Rep. Kirk learned that most airport screeners were not American citizens. He also found that a passenger dialing “911” on an Airfone would not be answered. In response, Rep. Kirk authored two key provisions which were enacted as part of the final law:

- All airport screeners must be American citizens.
- The Transportation Department will establish a “SKY911” program so that passengers will receive trained help when they call from an airplane.

Veterans’ Hospital Saved by Kirk Plan for Sharing

The Veterans’ Administration and the Navy recently agreed to begin planning for a new joint hospital that will ensure the survival of veterans’ health care in northern Illinois.

In the last few years, the VA made two attempts to close North Chicago’s veterans’ hospital, despite a growing number of veterans living in lake and northern Cook counties. After taking office, Congressman Kirk put forward a plan to combine the VA with the naval hospital at Great Lakes to guarantee veterans’ health care in northern Illinois. The White House, VA and Defense Department agreed to Rep. Kirk’s outline, and planning is now underway to ensure veterans receive the health care they deserve right here in northern Illinois.

Modeled after a joint Air Force/VA hospital at Nellis AFB in Nevada, the joint federal hospital is planned for funding in 2006. Until then, VA and Navy officials will begin expanding the cooperation between their facilities to improve health care for active duty sailors and veterans alike. The plan will also save taxpayer dollars — staff at the Nellis hospital report that sharing between the VA and Defense Department saves 25% by ending duplication between hospitals.



Congressman Kirk discusses his efforts to save the North Chicago VA hospital with Bataan veteran Neil Lovino.

Hearing on Kirk Impact Aid Bill

The former Supreme Allied Commander for Europe, Gen. Wesley Clark, accepted an invitation from Congressman Kirk to serve as the star witness in a recent hearing on the need for education impact aid.

Impact aid is essential to the North Chicago, Highland Park and Glenview school districts that accept children from military families but cannot tax housing owned by the federal government. Federal impact aid to schools helps to make up some of the difference in lost education dollars.

General Clark highlighted the importance of military families in the war on terror. He strongly supported Congressman Kirk’s bill — the Government Reservation Accelerated Development for Education Act or “GRADE-A” — that would guarantee full funding for impact aid schools. Currently, the impact aid program covers only 46% of schools’ cost for educating military kids.

North Chicago Superintendent, Dr. Patricia Pickles, also testified at the hearing. Rep. Kirk highlighted the needs of impact aid schools, underlining the importance of military kids and their schools.



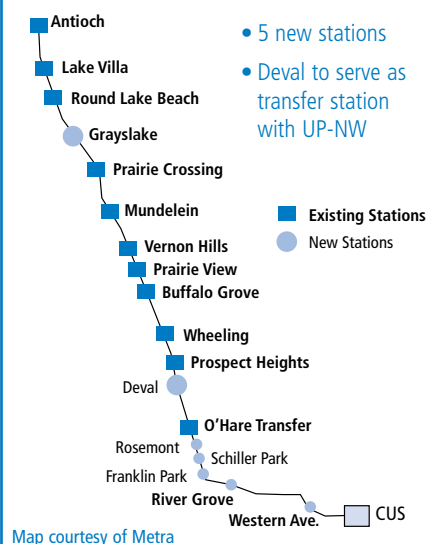
Gen. Wesley Clark testified before Congress on the importance of Rep. Kirk’s impact aid education legislation.

Fighting Traffic Gridlock

Congress approved \$55 million in federal funding for Metra commuter rail projects in suburban Chicago. Congressman Kirk, a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, worked with House Speaker Dennis Hastert and the entire Illinois delegation to assure Metra funding included expansion money for the Chicago-Antioch North Central Service.

Kirk told Secretary of Transportation Mineta that double tracking and adding trains to the North Central line would pull thousands of cars off our congested highways. He also said this project would help us meet our environmental priorities under the Clean Air Act. Construction is due to begin next year and the new service scheduled to start in 2005.

NCS Expansion Project Stations & Parking WISCONSIN CENTRAL SEGMENT



IN THE NEWS



Survey

While the attack on America has dominated the attention of our federal government, I would like your opinion on other issues of concern. Below are some issues that have been brought to my attention. Please indicate how important these issues are to you by circling the appropriate number, 1 being low importance and 5 being high importance.

Support public education

1 2 3 4 5

Securing social security

1 2 3 4 5

Fighting traffic gridlock

1 2 3 4 5

Boosting medical research

1 2 3 4 5

Environmental protection

1 2 3 4 5

Modernizing Medicare — prescription drug benefit

1 2 3 4 5

Reducing illegal narcotics

1 2 3 4 5

Other areas of concern:

Your Name:

Your Address:

Please clip and mail to:
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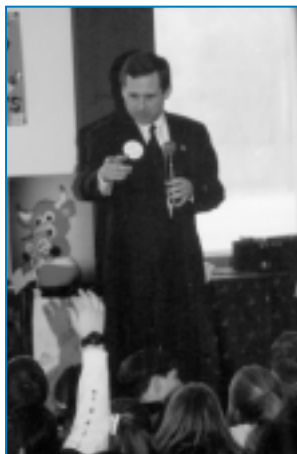
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✂ CLIP AND MAIL

KIDS CORNER

Kirk Reassures High School Students Following Attack

In the weeks following the September 11 attacks, Congressman Kirk visited New Trier, Waukegan, Vernon Hills, Highland Park and Glenbrook South high schools in an effort to reassure students and offer a message of tolerance for all Americans. Rep. Kirk answered questions about what happened and what he expected the United States response to be. Kirk, who was meeting with Secretary Rumsfeld at the Pentagon the morning of the attack, shared his views on terrorism, military action and the future of our nation. Students questioned Congressman Kirk about biological warfare, Afghanistan and Osama bin Laden, intelligence failures, national security and countries allied with the United States. Kirk told students that each generation has faced challenges to our freedoms and way of life — this is our generation's test.



Kirk reassured students about the terrorist attacks during a recent school visit.

Student Leadership Advisory Board



Congressman Kirk meets with students from the National Youth Leadership Conference in his Washington, D.C. office.

To provide the perspective of young people on important issues facing our communities, Congressman Kirk formed the 10th District Student Leaders Advisory Board. Made up of junior class presidents from each high school in the 10th District, these student leaders will provide input to the Congressman's Education Advisory Board, Environment Advisory Board and Drug Task Force. Students will meet twice a year with the Congressman and serve a two-year term on the board.

UPCOMING TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Focus on: Education

January 26, 2002

2-4 p.m.

Olive School, Arlington Heights

Focus on: Health Care

February 23, 2002

2-4 p.m.

John Clark School, Waukegan

Traveling to Washington, D.C.?

Due to the United States' dedication to fighting the war against terrorism, security in Washington, D.C. has drastically increased. Public and congressional tours of the White House, United States Capitol, FBI, Bureau of Engraving and Printing, and the Supreme Court have been suspended and will not resume until further notice.



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Washington D.C. 20515

Official Business

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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Kirk".

M.C.
Presorted Standard
ECRWSS

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